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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to the attention of the international community through Your Excellency the tragic news that as of 1200 GMT Monday 8 April, 771,850 Iraqi refugees have escaped their country and entered Iran through the western borders. The numbers are steadily increasing. The situation at the borders is desperate.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the following steps to alleviate the sufferings of thousands of refugees including the elderly and the children.

- Keeping the borders continuously open to the flow of human beings seeking refuge in Iran.

- Increasing the emergency budget to deal with this crisis from 1 billion rials ($US 14,285,714) to 4 billion rials ($US 57,142,856).

- Appealing to people and national organizations to mobilize their resources to assist the Iraqi refugees.

- Calling upon international agencies and all States to take speedy measures to fulfil their international responsibility and to provide relief assistance to Iraqi refugees.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to embark on a soul searching national mobilization to provide emergency shelter, food and clothing for the massive number of refugees who are expected to rise beyond 1 million by the end of this week. The problem is, however, so tremendous that the host country alone will not be able to cope with the speed of the influx and provision of a decent emergency living condition for so huge a number of refugees. The international community is expected to shoulder its humanitarian responsibility to a defenceless and innocent people who are leaving their homes and fleeing from the armed forces of their own Government.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran trusts that under the guidance of Your Excellency, the United Nations machinery and its agencies will be fully mobilized to provide relief assistance to Iraqi refugees.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative